

**NHANES 1999–2000 Data Documentation**  
**February, 2006**  
**Household Interview Sample Person Questionnaire**

**Occupation (OCQ)**

Survey Years Included in this File: 1999–2000

**Component Description:**

The Occupation Questionnaire Section (prefix OCQ; questions OCQ130 to OCD480) contains personal interview data on employment and variables relating to the work environment.

**Eligible Sample and any Component-Specific Exclusion Criteria:**

The OCQ Questionnaire was administered to Sample Persons 12+ years of age. Sample Persons aged 12-15 years were only asked a single question (OCQ130) that collected data on the average hours worked per week. For minors, questions were answered via a proxy respondent, generally a parent or guardian. Survey respondents 16 years of age and older were asked the full series of Occupation-related questions (OCQ150-OCQ450). If in addition survey respondents were ages 16-59 and had a history of medical provider diagnosis of asthma (MCQ010=1) then they were eligible for the “Asthma Job” series of questions (OCQ470G-OCD480). Note that military occupations are not permissible entries for NHANES current job data because the survey samples solely the civilian, non-institutionalized U.S. population. Military occupation codes are, however, valid entries for both the longest or “asthma job” data.

**Data Processing and Editing:**

A subject’s questionnaire interview responses were entered into a pentop computer and then uploaded into a computerized database in the same manner as other sections of the Sample Person Questionnaire. The data was then edited for completeness, consistency, and illogical values. Industry and occupation text data were then coded by trained nosologists using NCHS standards.<sup>1,2</sup> For public release, recoded variables for industry and occupation groups were constructed, closely following the pattern established for reporting industry and occupation groups in the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III). These Occupation and Industry Groups and their 3-digit source codes are listed in Appendix B.

**Component-Specific Analytic Notes and File Variables:**

In general, analysts are advised to carefully review question wording in the OCQ codebook to make sure they understand the definitions employed for Occupation-related variables. Many OCQ questions need to be considered as an

integral part of data collection for other Questionnaire sections (AUQ, HIQ, SMQ) and Exam or Laboratory Components (AU, Lab 7-Latex). Appendix A lists a SAS™ program to provide value labels for the Industry and Occupation groups designated for the Sample Person's Current, Longest, and "Asthma" jobs.

#### Current Job Information:

The primary focus of the OCQ Questionnaire is data collection for the Sample Person's work within the previous week, i.e. the respondent's Current Job. The Sample Person's Current Job is defined as the main paid job worked within the last week, including work on a family farm. When an individual currently worked multiple jobs, the Sample Person was asked to designate a main job for the interview. Data collected included:

- The Number of Hours Worked Last Week- All Jobs
- Whether the Sample Person Usually Works 35 or More Hours/Week
- The Current Job Industry and Occupation Group Codes (OCD230, OCD240)
- Sector Of Employment (Private, Public) for Current, Main Job
- Number Of Months Working On Current, Main Job
- (If not working) The Main Reason the Respondent Did Not Work Last Week

#### Longest Job Information:

By design, the survey collected data on both industry and occupation for a subject's Current and "Asthma" job, but only data on occupation was collected for the subject's Longest job. Therefore industry information is not available for the Sample Person's designated Longest Job. Some industry information is available in instances where the Longest Job is the same as the Current Job, or was the armed forces (OCD390G=2 or 3). Also, in some instances industry for the Longest job can be inferred from the Sample Person's longest occupation. Previous survey research has shown a moderate correlation exists between a respondent's Current and Longest reported jobs.<sup>3</sup> The variable OCD390 contains the Occupation Group Code Data for the Longest Job and OCD395 contains data on the duration of the Longest Job in months.

#### "Asthma" Job Information:

For respondents reporting a diagnosis of asthma (MCQ010=1), the industry and occupation designation for the specific job held when the asthma began were captured. This employment history may be, but is not necessarily related to the onset of a Sample Person's asthma. OCQ470G, the "gate" question for this series, records whether this "Asthma" Job was the same as the respondent's Current or Longest job, or if the respondent was not working at that time. If the respondent was working, but not with either the Current or Longest designated job, the variables OCD470 and OCD480 record the pertinent Industry and Occupation Group Code information.

#### Data on Workplace Tobacco Smoke Exposure:

Data for exposure to workplace tobacco smoke is collected only for the Sample Person's Current Job. Exposure to tobacco smoke is defined as whether the respondent can smell tobacco smoke at work. OCQ290G records (categorically) whether the sample person was exposed to tobacco smoke at work . If there is a history of workplace tobacco smoke

exposure OCQ290Q records the number of hours/day the sample person was exposed. Note that a value of "0" in OCQ290Q signifies that workplace exposure to tobacco smoke occurred, but was less than one hour per day. Workplace tobacco smoke exposure data is logically related to SMQ Questionnaire data.

#### Data on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment at Work:

This is the question series OCQ300 to OCQ330e, which asked about data only for the Participant's Current Job. Data is collected on whether the Sample Person has ever used protective equipment at work, including the use of respirators, hearing protection, or protective glove use. The data on latex protective glove use is designed to be analyzed with Lab 7 Latex-specific IGE antibody data.

#### Workplace Noise Exposure History:

For the NHANES Survey, workplace noise exposure is defined as on-the-job noise so loud that the Sample Person has to speak in a raised voice to be heard. Data analysts should be aware that the Sample Person's history of hearing disorders as well as the Sample Person's exposure history for non-occupational loud noise (i.e. from firearms, power tools or loud music), as well as the non-occupational use of hearing protection is located in the AUQ questionnaire segment.

#### Lifetime Work Noise Exposures:

Data on lifetime exposure to loud job noise for greater than 3 months is collected in OCQ340 and OCQ420, which must be combined for any overall analysis (OCQ340 collects this data for the currently employed; OCQ420 collects the data for Sample Persons not currently employed).

#### Workplace Noise in Current Job:

For the Sample Person's Current Job, OCQ350 collects data on the presence or absence of job noise exposure, and OCQ360 collects the average number of hours/week. The use of hearing protection devices on the Sample Person's Current Job is collected in OCQ310B.

#### Noise Exposure in the Sample Person's Longest Job:

For the Sample Person's Longest Job, exposure to loud job noise for greater than 3 months is collected in the series OCQ430, OCQ440 and OCQ450 (presence/absence of exposure; hours/day exposed; and whether protective hearing devices were worn, respectively). The duration of the Sample Person's Longest Job is recorded in OCD395.

#### Other Notes:

No detailed job history information for adolescents aged 12-15 years was collected in NHANES; only the average work hours/week was collected (OCQ130).

OCQ280 asks Sample Persons whether Health Insurance is offered at the individual's Current Job. This question was placed in the OCQ Questionnaire to facilitate the interviewing

process, and is analytically a part of the Health Insurance Questionnaire (HIQ) segment.

A detailed review and discussion of previous Occupational data for previous NHANES surveys, as well as other National Center for Health Statistics Surveys is available.<sup>4</sup>

### **NCHS Research Data Center:**

Analyses requiring additional detail of occupation or industry coding than those publicly released are restricted because of the confidentiality of NHANES data. Proposals for such analyses must be submitted to the NHCS Research Data Center (RDC) for review and approval.

### **References:**

<sup>1</sup> Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics. Instruction Manual Part 19: Industry and Occupation Coding for Death Certificates. U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, Maryland, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics. Instruction Manual Part 19b: Alphabetical Index of Industries and Occupations, 1998. U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, Maryland, 1997.

<sup>3</sup> Burnett CA, Crouse WE. Agreement of latest and longest occupation and industry as reported in the 1980 National Health Interview Survey. J Occup Med. 1989 Apr;31(4):339-46.

<sup>4</sup> Wagener DK. Occupation and Health Data Guide: Bibliographies and Data Sources From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. No. 2. May 1993. 36 pp. (PHS) 93-1308.

## APPENDIX A

SAS™ program to provide value labels for the Industry and Occupation groups designated for the Sample Person's current, longest, and "asthma" jobs.  
(Note: "Mfg." is an abbreviation for "Manufacturing")

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PROC FORMAT;
VALUE IGROUP
1='Agriculture production'
2='Agricultural services, forestry, and fishing'
3='Mining'
4='Construction'
5='Mfg.-Food and kindred products'
6='Mfg.-Textile mill products'
7='Mfg.-Apparel and other finished textile products'
8='Mfg.-Paper products, printing, publishing, and allied industries'
9='Mfg.-Chemicals, petroleum, and coal products'
10='Mfg.-Rubber, plastics, and leather products'
11='Mfg.-Lumber and wood products, including furniture'
12='Mfg.-Metal industries'
13='Mfg.-Machinery, except electrical'
14='Mfg.-Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies'
15='Mfg.-Transportation equipment'
16='Mfg.-Miscellaneous and not specified manufacturing industries'
17='Trucking service'
18='Transportation, except trucking'
19='Communications'
20='Utilities'
21='Wholesale Trade, Durable goods'
22='Wholesale Trade, Non-durable and not specified goods'
23='Retail-Department stores'
24='Retail-Food stores'
25='Retail-Vehicle dealers, supply and service stores'
26='Retail-Apparel and accessory stores'
27='Retail-Eating and drinking places'
28='Other Retail trade'
29='Banking and other finance'
30='Insurance and real estate'
31='Business services'
32='Repair services'
33='Private households'
34='Lodging places'
35='Personal services, except private households and lodging'
36='Entertainment and recreation services'
37='Offices of health practitioners'
38='Hospitals'
39='Health services, n. e. c.'
40='Educational services'
41='Social services'
42='Other professional and related services'
43='Justice, public order, and safety'
44='Public administration, except justice, public order, safety'
45='Military & national security'
98='Blank but applicable';
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VALUE OGROUP
1='Executive, administrators, and managers'
2='Management related occupations'
3='Engineers, architects and scientists'
4='Health diagnosing, assessing and treating occupations'
5='Teachers'
6='Writers, artists, entertainers, and athletes'
7='Other professional specialty occupations'
8='Technicians and related support occupations'
9='Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations'
10='Sales representatives, finance, business, & commodities ex. retail'
11='Sales workers, retail and personal services'
12='Secretaries, stenographers, and typists'
13='Information clerks'
14='Records processing occupations'
15='Material recording, scheduling, and distributing clerks'
16='Miscellaneous administrative support occupations'
17='Private household occupations'
18='Protective service occupations'
19='Waiters and waitresses'
20='Cooks'
21='Miscellaneous food preparation and service occupations'
22='Health service occupations'
23='Cleaning and building service occupations'
24='Personal service occupations'
25='Farm operators, managers, and supervisors'
26='Farm and nursery workers'
27='Related agricultural, forestry, and fishing occupations'
28='Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics and repairers'
29='Other mechanics and repairers'
30='Construction trades'
31='Extractive and precision production occupations'
32='Textile, apparel, and furnishings machine operators'
33='Machine operators, assorted materials'
34='Fabricators, assemblers, inspectors, and samplers'
35='Motor vehicle operators'
36='Other transportation and material moving occupations'
37='Construction laborers'
38='Laborers, except construction'
39='Freight, stock, and material movers, hand'
40='Other helpers, equipment cleaners, hand packagers and laborers'
41='Military occupations'
98='Blank but applicable';
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## APPENDIX B

### NHANES1999-2000 Industry & Occupation Group Code Listing

NHANES1999-2000 INDUSTRY & OCCUPATION GROUPS		
Industry Groups	Industry Group Title	NCHS Industry Classification Source Codes <sup>1,2</sup>
1	Agriculture production	10-12
2	Agricultural services, forestry, and fishing	20,30-32
3	Mining	40-42,50
4	Construction	60
5	Mfg. <sup>3</sup> -Food and kindred products	100-102,110-112,120-122,130
6	Mfg.-Textile mill products	132,140-142,150
7	Mfg.-Apparel and other finished textile products	151,152
8	Mfg.-Paper products, printing, publishing, and allied industries	160-162,171,172
9	Mfg.-Chemicals, petroleum, and coal products	180-182,190-192,200,201
10	Mfg.-Rubber, plastics, and leather products	210-212,220-222
11	Mfg.-Lumber and wood products, including furniture	230-232,241,242
12	Mfg.-Metal industries	270-272, 280-282,290-292,300,301
13	Mfg.-Machinery, except electrical	310-312,320-322,331,332
14	Mfg.-Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies	340-342, 350
15	Mfg.-Transportation equipment	351,352,360-362,370
16	Mfg.-Miscellaneous and not specified manufacturing industries	250-252, 261, 262, 371, 372, 380, 381,390-392
17	Trucking service	410
18	Transportation, except trucking	400-402,411,412,420-422,432
19	Communications	440-442
20	Utilities	450-452,470-472
21	Wholesale Trade, Durable goods	500-502, 510-512,521,530-532
22	Wholesale Trade, Non-durable and not specified goods	540-542, 550-552, 560-562, 571
23	Retail-Department stores	591
24	Retail-Food stores	601,602,610,611
25	Retail-Vehicle dealers, supply and service stores	612,620-622
26	Retail-Apparel and accessory stores	623, 630
27	Retail-Eating and drinking places	641
28	Other Retail trade	580-582, 590, 592, 600, 631-633, 640, 642, 650-652, 660-663, 670-672, 681, 682, 691
29	Banking and other finance	700-702, 710
30	Insurance and real estate	711,712
31	Business services	721, 722, 731, 732, 740, 741, 742, 750
32	Repair services	751-752, 760
33	Private households	761
34	Lodging places	762, 770
35	Personal services, except private households and lodging	771, 772, 780-782, 790,791
36	Entertainment and recreation services	800-802,810
37	Offices of health practitioners	812, 820-822, 830
38	Hospitals	831
39	Health services, n. e. c.	832, 840
40	Educational services	842, 850-852, 860

41	Social services	861-863, 870, 871
42	Other professional and related services	841, 872, 873, 880-882, 890-893
43	Justice, public order, and safety	910
44	Public administration, except justice, public order, safety	900, 901, 921, 922, 930-932
45	Military & national security	940-942,950-952,960

## Occupation

Groups	Occupation Group Title	NCHS Occupational Classification Source Codes <sup>1,2</sup>
1	Executive, administrators, and managers	3-9,13-19,21,22
2	Management related occupations	23-29,33-37
3	Engineers, architects and scientists	43-49, 53-59, 63-69, 73-79, 83
4	Health diagnosing, assessing and treating occupations	84-89,95-99,103-106
5	Teachers	113-119,123-129,133-139,143-149,153-159
6	Writers, artists, entertainers, and athletes	183-189,193-195, 197-199
7	Other professional specialty occupations	163-169,173-179
8	Technicians and related support occupations	203-208, 213-218, 223-229, 233-235
9	Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	243
10	Sales representatives, finance, business, & commodities ex. Retail	253-259
11	Sales workers, retail and personal services	263-269, 274-278, 283-285
12	Secretaries, stenographers, and typists	313-315
13	Information clerks	316-319, 323
14	Records processing occupations	325-329, 335-339, 343, 344
15	Material recording, scheduling, and distributing clerks	359, 363-366, 368, 373, 374
16	Miscellaneous administrative support occupations	303-309,345-348,353-357, 375-379, 383-387, 389
17	Private household occupations	403-407
18	Protective service occupations	413-418, 423-427
19	Waiters and waitresses	435
20	Cooks	436
21	Miscellaneous food preparation and service occupations	433,434,438,439,443,444
22	Health service occupations	445-447
23	Cleaning and building service occupations	448,449,453-455
24	Personal service occupations	456-459,461-469
25	Farm operators, managers, and supervisors	473-477
26	Farm and nursery workers	479,483,484
27	Related agricultural, forestry, and fishing occupations	485-489,494-499
28	Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics and repairers	505-509, 514-517
29	Other mechanics and repairers	503, 518, 519, 523, 525-527, 529, 533-536, 538, 539, 543, 544, 547, 549
30	Construction trades	553-558, 563-567, 569, 573, 575-577, 579, 583-585, 587-589, 593-599
31	Extractive and precision production occupations	613-617, 628, 634-637, 639, 643-647, 649, 653-659, 666-669, 674-679, 683, 684, 686-689, 693-696, 699
32	Textile, apparel, and furnishings machine operators	738,739,743-745,747-749
33	Machine operators, assorted materials	703-709, 713-715, 717, 719, 723-729, 733-737, 753-759, 763-766, 769-769, 773-774, 777, 779
34	Fabricators, assemblers, inspectors, and samplers	783-787, 789, 793, 795-799
35	Motor vehicle operators	803, 804, 806, 808, 809, 813, 814
36	Other transportation and material moving occupations	823-826, 828, 829, 833, 834, 843-845, 848, 849, 853, 855, 856, 859
37	Construction laborers	869



38	Laborers, except construction	889
39	Freight, stock, and material movers, hand	875-878,883
40	Other helpers, equipment cleaners, hand packagers, laborers	864-868, 874, 885, 887, 888
41	Military occupations	903-905

<sup>1</sup> Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics. Instruction Manual Part 19: Industry and Occupation Coding for Death Certificates. U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, Maryland, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics. Instruction Manual Part 19b: Alphabetical Index of Industries and Occupations, 1998. U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, Maryland, 1997.

<sup>3</sup>The abbreviation "Mfg." Stands for Manufacturing.

#### Notes:

The above industry and occupation group codes were applied to the recoded group variables OCD230, OCD240, OCD390, OCD470, and OCD480. This schema for occupation and industry groupings closely follows, and is directly comparable to the pattern used in NHANES III. NHANES1999+, unlike NHANES III, has grouped codes for military occupations and military service as an industry designation. NHANES1999+ is a survey of the U.S. civilian, non-institutionalized population, therefore by definition these military industry and occupation codes cannot apply to current job data. The codes are, however, pertinent to subject responses for the longest occupation, and the job when asthma began.